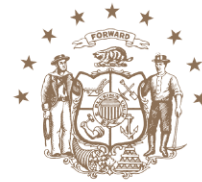




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
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REP. POPE : GOP RESOLUTION AIMS TO POLITICIZE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MADISON –Earlier today, Representative Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains) commented on the release of a resolution by Representative Joe Sanfelippo that would make major changes to the office of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The resolution would change the superintendent from an elected official into a gubernatorial appointee.

The Wisconsin State Superintendent has been a nonpartisan, directly elected office for the entire history of Wisconsin's statehood. Wisconsin has been renowned for some of the highest performing public schools in the nation, due in no small part to the contributions of our state's founders. Rep. Sanfelippo's resolution seeks to undermine that history in an effort to score political points to the detriment of our state's students.

"The citizens of Wisconsin are not easily fooled by talking points and will see this resolution for what it is--another Republican power grab," Rep. Pope said. "This is yet another step in the GOP's sustained assault on public education. Making ridiculous claims and assertions that the current Superintendent is somehow unqualified and that DPI is failing kids is irresponsible, shameful and a cheap political stunt. It is also highly ironic that Rep. Sanfelippo wants to talk about the proficiency of public school students as grounds for demanding change when the voucher program he supports collectively achieves at 13% proficient and advanced in reading scores."

[Rep. Sanfelippo's release](#) claims that this move will increase accountability, when in fact the resolution will make it easier for Republican's to install a superintendent that will be unaccountable to voters and will presumably assist them in their ultimate goal of increased school privatization. Instead of directly electing an official who they can vet through the election process, we are investing in a winner-take-all election which time and again has proven to be a recipe for extreme politicization on both sides of the issue."

"The motives of this resolution are clear as Rep. Sanfelippo attempts to eliminate the current Superintendent as well as the ability of voters to elect a superintendent of their choice," said Rep. Pope. "There is no proof that Rep. Sanfelippo, his Republican colleagues or our habitually truant Governor can be trusted to appoint a better 'qualified' candidate that will execute their duties with the best interests of Wisconsin public school students in mind. You don't need to look far to see their failed track record of appointments ([Brian Deschane](#), [Cindy Archer](#), [Michael M. Grebe](#)) and mismanagement of agencies ([WEDC](#))."

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